



News Release

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Welcome Danette D. York, Lewis County's New Public Health Director

Chehalis, WA – Since mid-June, Lewis County Public Health has been anxiously awaiting the arrival of a new Director. On September 3, their new director arrived – all the way from Ohio! Danette D. York has been serving in the public health field for 12 years, and she is eager to continue her career in Lewis County. Though her schedule is daunting, and her days are busy, she took some time to sit down for a candid interview so that our community could get to know her.

Danette is originally from Georgia, and has the sweet sound of the south in her accent. But, don't be fooled, her southern roots didn't tie her to Georgia; her life and professional experiences have taken her to multiple parts of the country. Both she, and her husband Tim, served in the United States Marine Corps which provided an opportunity for them to live in several states.

Danette first began working in public health because of her accounting background; additionally, she holds a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership from Northern Kentucky University. After falling in love with public health's worthwhile and essential functions, she decided to pursue her Master of Public Health degree and received it from The Ohio State University in 2007. In addition to her daily public health duties, Danette served as an instructor for community health workers in an effort to help build the public health workforce. Most recently, Danette was the Health Commissioner for a Local Health Jurisdiction just east of Cincinnati, Ohio. It was a small, rural county – not all that different from our own Lewis County.

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This was actually one of the appealing factors when Danette saw the job posting through the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) website.

“Several years ago, my husband and I vacationed on the West Coast and drove from Seattle to San Francisco with many stops in between. We fell in love with the area and decided that we wanted to live in the Pacific Northwest and retire there. When I saw the opening for Director in Lewis County I felt the position was just what I was looking for. After visiting Lewis County for the first interview, we knew it was right for us.”

Danette and her husband have a son who is a senior attending W.F. West High School in Chehalis. Their two terriers also made the cross-country move with them. They have two adult daughters – one in Ohio and one in South Carolina along with two grandsons. During her free time, Danette enjoys an active lifestyle; hiking, kayaking, and biking are some of her favorite activities.

Danette hasn't skipped a beat and is ready for her duties at Lewis County Public Health. As she left her former position, they were in the midst of H1N1 preparations and juggling budget concerns. Her first days here included orientation and trainings, along with serious decision making about the coming flu season, emergency preparedness activities, and budget activities.

Welcome to Lewis County, Danette!

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